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## GENERAL NOTES.

*Oceanodroma townsendi* off San Diego, California.—From the time of my introduction to the Sea-birds of Southern California in 1887, I have seen at intervals, a black Petrel, which I quite naturally supposed was *Oceanodroma melania*. They are seen in companies of not more than three, more often solitary, and at quite a distance from land. In August and September, however, they are sometimes seen along the kelp beds near shore and on one or two occasions one was seen in the bay at San Diego, but they never enter the bay except in foggy weather or at night.

July, August and September seem to be the months in which they are most common, though I think I have seen them occasionally nearly all the year.

Owing as much to their extreme restlessness as to their shyness, I could never secure specimens. Not the slightest attention was paid to bait thrown over to them, or to other sea-birds that might be following the boat, therefore the capture of a single specimen off this port on Sept. 1 of the past year was somewhat of a surprise to me.

Starting from the Coronado Islands about 20 miles south of San Diego, on the morning of the above date, I sailed in a westerly direction until noon, when I was about 40 miles from San Diego and almost due west. Several Petrels were seen during the morning but none offered a chance for a shot. *Puffinus gavia* was seen at intervals, but the large flock which is usually to be found in this locality at this season, and which I was in search of, was not to be found. It was decided to look for them nearer shore, and the sloop was headed for San Diego, under a fair but light breeze. When about 30 miles off shore, a flock of not less than 200 Petrels was sighted coming toward the sloop, on a course that would take them about a quarter of a mile south of us. They were flying just above the water in a somewhat loose flock, with a long string of

stragglers reaching half a mile or more behind, all apparently feeding. An attempt was made to intercept the main flock, but owing to the light breeze only the stragglers were overtaken and but one secured. Over an hour was spent in a fruitless attempt to again overtake them, but as they were working directly to windward, and the breeze was very light, we always passed about two gunshots behind the last.

I was unable to discover what they were feeding on, as the specimen secured contained nothing but a reddish oil. All were, however, apparently picking up something from the surface of the water, which appeared to be slightly agitated as by a school of very small fish, or a light wind. Their flight was strongly suggestive of that of the Night-hawk, with this exception, that when pausing to pick up or investigate an object on the water, the wings were held higher and the wing beats considerably increased for the moment. Only a few were seen to alight, and then for an instant only.

With the exception of a few birds which at a distance strongly resembled *Halocyptena microsoma*, all appeared to be like the specimen secured, which Mr. Ridgway has kindly compared with his type of *O. townsendi* and pronounced to be of that species. From my observations I should say that Townsend's Petrel was of regular though perhaps somewhat rare occurrence in deep water as far north as the Santa Barbara Channel.—A. W. ANTHONY, *Sau Diego, Cal.*

**The Canada Goose and Osprey laying in the same Nest.**—Mr. Charles de B. Green, who spends a good deal of his spare time in making collections for the Museum, writes me from Kettle River, Okanagan District, British Columbia, to the effect that while climbing to an Osprey's nest he was surprised to find his actions resented by not only the Ospreys but also by a pair of Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*), the latter birds making quite a fuss all the time Mr. Green was in the tree. On reaching the nest he was still further surprised to find two Osprey eggs and three of the Canada Goose. He took the two Osprey's eggs and two of the Geese eggs.

This was on the first of May. On the 12th of May he returned and found the Osprey setting on the Goose egg; the geese were nowhere in sight. Mr. Green took the remaining egg and sent the lot to the Museum.

I am aware that it is not unusual for the Canada Goose to nest in trees but for two birds with such strangely opposite habits as the ones above quoted to enter into partnership in the matter of rearing a family is in my experience somewhat strange.

I may mention in this connection that in the Okanagan District, especially along the valleys of the Kettle and Similkameen Rivers, Canada Geese are particularly noted for nesting in trees, and as these valleys are subject to sudden inundation during early spring, this fact may have something to do with it.—JOHN FANNIN, *Provincial Museum, Victoria, B. C.*